

III. REMARKS

1. 46-65 are amended. Claims 66-86 are new.
2. Although Applicant notes that there is no requirement for the preamble to specify the claimed subject matter in a manner as requested by the Examiner, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 56 and 61 are amended.

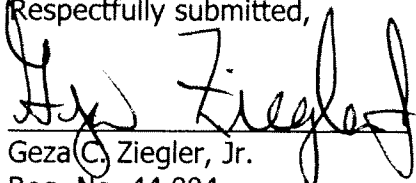
It is noted that the preamble is merely an introductory statement having a purpose to name or define the thing which is being claimed. Thus, the preamble need only provided a general definition of the claimed subject matter. As noted in Pitney Bowes, Inc. v. Hewlett-Packard Co., 182 F.3d 1298, 1305 (Fed. Cir. 1999), the preamble merely states the purpose or use and does not need to provide a distinct definition of the limitations of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, it is submitted that the claims are in a proper form.

2. Claims 46 and 56 are amended to address the rejection under 35 USC §101.
3. New claims 77-86 are based on the claims as allowed in the corresponding EP application.
4. The claims are also amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, ensure the consistent use of language in the claims and correct certain errors noted with respect to the claims. The amendments are supported by the specification and no new subject matter is added.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of \$3,072 for the additional claim fees (9 extra independent claims @ \$220 per claim and 21 extra total claims @ \$52 per claim), the fee for a three-month extension of time, as well as any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,004

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Date

Perman & Green, LLP
99 Hawley Lane
Stratford, CT 06614
(203) 259-1800
Customer No.: 2512